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IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, lines 1-13, with the following amended paragraph:

In distribution system 100, program streams may be continually transmitted from the head-end to the terminals (i.e., broadcast) or may be addressed to particular terminals that requested the information via an interactive menu (referred to herein as "demand-cast"). An interactive menu structure suitable for requesting video-on-demand (VOD) is disclosed in commonly assigned U.S. Patent ~~Application Serial No. 08/984,427~~, 6,208,335 entitled "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROVIDING A MENU STRUCTURE FOR AN INTERACTIVE INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM," filed ~~December 3, 1997~~, and incorporated herein by reference. Another example of an interactive menu suitable for requesting multimedia services is an interactive program guide disclosed in commonly assigned U.S. Patent ~~Application Serial No. 09/293,526~~, 6,754,905 entitled "DATA STRUCTURE AND METHODS FOR PROVIDING AN INTERACTIVE PROGRAM GUIDE," filed ~~April 15, 1999~~, and incorporated herein by reference.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, lines 3-15, with the following amended paragraph:

Picture-based encoding is described in detail in U.S. Patent ~~Application Serial No. 09/384,394~~ 6,621,870, entitled "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR COMPRESSING VIDEO SEQUENCES," filed August 27, 1999. Slice-based encoding is described in detail in U.S. Patent ~~Application Serial No. 09/428,066~~ 6,651,252, entitled "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR TRANSMITTING VIDEO AND GRAPHICS IN COMPRESSED FORM", filed ~~October 27, 1999~~. Temporal slice persistence encoding is described in detail in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/686,739 (~~Attorney Docket No. 19980-003410~~), entitled "TEMPORAL SLICE PERSISTENCE METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DELIVERY OF INTERACTIVE PROGRAM GUIDE," filed October 10, 2000 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,754,271, issued June 22, 2004).

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StrobeCast encoding and delivery is described in detail in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/687,662, entitled "EFFICIENT DELIVERY OF INTERACTIVE PROGRAM GUIDE USING DEMAND-CAST," filed October 12, 2000. These applications are assigned to the assignee of the invention and incorporated herein by reference.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 20, line 28 to page 21, line 4 with the following amended paragraph:

Stream processing routine 568 coordinates the recombination of video streams to form the desired video sequences. Stream processing routine ~~3468~~ 568 employs a variety of methods to recombine slice-based streams, some of which are described in the aforementioned U.S. Patent No. 6,754,271 ~~Application Serial No. (Attorney Docket No. 10880-003440)~~. In one recombination method, a PID filter 516 within demodulator 514 is utilized to filter the undesired PIDs and retrieve the desired PIDs from the transport stream. The packets to be extracted and decoded to form a particular IPG page are identified by PID mapping table 564. For most recombination methods, after stream processing routine 568 has processed the streams into the proper order, the slices are sent to video decoder 530 (e.g., an MPEG-2 decoder) to form uncompressed IPG pages suitable for display.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 21, line 31 to page 22, line 4, with the following amended paragraph:

FIG. 6 is a block diagram of an information distribution system 600 for delivering programming guide and other contents. System 600 is also capable of monitoring (e.g., from a remote location) the delivery of contents and implementing various aspects of the invention. System 600 includes a head-end 602 configured to provide contents (e.g., programming, video-on-demand, interactive program guide, advertisements, and so on) via a distribution node 606 to a number of terminals ~~408~~ 608 (only one terminal is shown in FIG. 6 for simplicity).

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Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 23, lines 17-27 with the following paragraph:

Although not shown in FIG. 6, monitor and control unit 660 may couple to a (e.g., Web) server, which may communicate with one or more remote devices. This allows monitor and control unit 660 to report contents received from monitoring system 680, status related to the operation of head-end 602 and monitoring system 680, and other information to the remote devices. In this manner, the operation of information distribution system 600 may be monitored and/or controlled from a remote location. An example remote monitoring and control system is described [in] further in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/734,496 (~~Attorney Docket No. 19880-004100~~), entitled "REMOTE MONITORING AND CONTROL METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR AN INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM," filed December 11, 2000, assigned to the assignee of the present application and incorporated herein by reference.

Please replace the two paragraphs beginning on page 25, lines 20-25 with the following amended paragraph:

In another application, the techniques described herein may be used to test a user interaction model for a user interface. A particular terminal may be directed to cycle through a sequence of commands, and the captured contents may be analyzed to verify ~~very~~ proper operation of the user interface. In yet another application, the techniques may be used to observe viewing conditions at the terminals.